IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 10 without prejudice and amend the claims as follows:

7. (Currently Amended) A functional system, comprising:

      a collective resource;

      a plurality of functional units requiring access to said collective resource; and

      an interface in electrical communication with said collective resource and said functional units to implement a scheme for managing access to said collective resource by said functional units,

      wherein said interface implements a plurality of states in a predetermined manner, and

      wherein each ~~at least one~~ state includes a period of access and a pre-defined order of priority, for ~~facilitating~~ enabling access to said collective resource by ~~one of~~ said functional units ~~among at least two of said functional units~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A data processing system, comprising:

      a collective memory;

      a plurality of processors requiring access to said collective resource; and

      an interface in electrical communication with said collective memory and said processors to implement a scheme for managing access to said collective memory by said processors,

      wherein said interface implements a plurality of states in a predetermined manner, and

wherein ~~at least one~~each state includes <u>period of access and</u> a pre-defined order of

priority for facilitating access to said collective memory by ~~one of~~said processors ~~among~~

~~at least two of said processors~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing a computer program

product for managing access to a collective memory by a plurality of functional units,

said computer readable medium, comprising:

computer readable code for implementing a plurality of states in a predetermined

manner, and

for ~~at least one~~each state, computer readable code for <u>providing a period of</u>

<u>access and</u> pre-defining an order of priority for facilitating access to said collective

resource by ~~one of~~said functional units ~~among at least two of said functional units~~.

10. (Canceled).